WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A portable, hand-held, digital camera picture image data transfer and repository device for use with a removable memory module of a digital camera comprising:

a housing of a size to be held in a user's hand and including a memory input port sized to receive a digital camera memory module;

a mass storage device operatively coupled to receive and store picture image data from a digital camera memory module inserted into said memory input port; and

data transfer circuitry for controlling the transfer of data stored in said digital camera module inserted into said memory input port to said mass storage device.

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2. A portable, hand-held, digital camera picture image data transfer and repository device in accordance with claim 1, further including:

processing circuitry for reformatting a digital camera memory module inserted into said memory input port to place said digital camera memory module into a state where it can be reused in the user's digital camera for picture capture without erasing desired picture image data.

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3. A portable, hand-held, digital camera picture image data transfer and repository device in accordance with claim 1, further including :

an output port operatively coupled to said mass storage device for transferring picture image data to a user's computer.

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4. A portable, hand-held, digital camera picture image data transfer and repository device in accordance with claim 1, further including:

at least one control key for initiating predetermined operations relating to said digital camera memory module.

5. A portable, hand-held, digital camera picture image data transfer and repository device in accordance with claim 4, wherein said at least one control key is part of a keyboard and wherein said data transfer circuitry is responsive to user initiation of a key to control the transfer of data from said memory module to said mass storage device.

6. A portable, hand-held, digital camera picture image data transfer and repository device in accordance with claim 1, further including:

a display for indicating the status of said repository device.

7. A portable, hand-held, digital camera picture image data transfer and repository device in accordance with claim 1, further including:

a display for displaying data indicative of at least part of the contents of said digital camera memory module.

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8. A portable, hand-held, digital camera picture image data transfer and repository device in accordance with claim 1, further including:

a further memory input port in said housing sized to receive a further storage module, said data transfer circuitry being operable to selectively transfer the contents of said digital camera memory module and said further storage module to said mass storage device.

9. A portable, hand-held, digital camera picture image data transfer and repository device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said mass storage device is a hard drive.

10. A portable, hand-held, digital camera picture image data transfer and repository device in accordance with claim 9, wherein said hard drive is removable.

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11. A portable, hand-held, digital data transfer and repository device for use with a removable memory module comprising:

a housing of a size to be held in a user's hand and including

a first memory input port for receiving a first digital memory module, and a second memory input port for receiving a second digital memory module,

a mass storage device contained within said hand-held housing and operatively coupled to receive and store digital data from both said first digital memory module and said second digital memory module inserted into said first and second memory input ports; and

processing circuitry contained within said hand-held housing for controlling the transfer of data stored in said first digital memory module and second digital memory module to said mass storage device.

12. A portable, hand-held, digital data transfer and repository device in accordance with claim 11, wherein said mass storage device is a hard drive.

13. A portable, hand-held, digital data transfer and repository device in accordance with claim 11, wherein said processing circuitry is operable to reformat a memory module inserted into one of the memory input ports to place the memory module into a state where it can be reused.

14. A portable, hand-held, digital data transfer and repository device in accordance with claim 11, further including :

an output port operatively coupled to said mass storage device for transferring data to a user's computer.

15. A portable, hand-held, digital data transfer and repository device in accordance with claim 11, further including a display.

16. A portable, hand-held, digital data transfer and repository device for use with a removable memory module comprising:

a housing of a size to be held in a user's hand and including

a memory input port for receiving a digital memory module,

a mass storage device contained within said hand-held housing and operatively coupled to receive and store digital data from both said first digital memory module and said second digital memory module inserted into said first and second memory input ports;

at least one control key for initiating a transfer of data from a digital memory module resident in said input port to said mass storage device; and

processing circuitry contained within said hand-held housing and responsive to the actuation of at least one control key for

controlling the transfer of data stored in said digital memory module to said mass storage device.

17. A portable, hand-held, digital data transfer and repository device in accordance with claim 16, wherein said mass storage device is a hard drive.

18. A portable, hand-held, digital data transfer and repository device in accordance with claim 16, wherein said processing circuitry is operable to reformat a memory module inserted into said memory input port to place the memory module into a state where it can be reused.

19. A portable, hand-held, digital data transfer and repository device in accordance with claim 16, further including :

an output port operatively coupled to said mass storage device for transferring data to a user's computer.

20. A portable, hand-held, digital data transfer and repository device in accordance with claim 16, further including a display.

21. A portable, hand-held, digital data transfer and repository device in accordance with claim 16, further including:

a further memory input port in said housing sized to receive a further storage module, said processing circuitry being operable to

selectively transfer the contents of said digital memory module and said further storage module to said mass storage device.

22. A method operating a portable hand-held digital camera picture image data transfer and repository device to permit the digital camera memory module to be reused comprising the steps of:

inserting into a memory inport port of said repository device a digital camera memory module having picture image data stored therein;

initiating under user control a data transfer of picture image data from the digital memory module to a mass storage device within said repository device; and

reformatting said digital camera memory module so that it may be reinserted into a digital camera for picture taking.

23. A method according to claim 22, further including the step of:

transferring picture image data to a user's computer via an output port in said portable repository device.

24. A method according to claim 22, further including the step of:

displaying on a display screen on said portable device data indicative of at least part of the contents of said digital camera memory module.

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